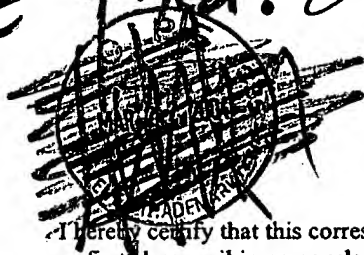



RCE Filed: 05.26.04



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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re Application of:

HOUGHTON et al.

Confirmation No.: 3252

Serial No.: 09/728,423

Art Unit: 1648

Filing Date: December 1, 2000

Examiner: M. Hill

Title: ELICITING HCV-SPECIFIC ANTIBODIES

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 CFR §1.116

Box AF
Commissioner for Patents
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This is in response to the Office Action mailed January 15, 2004, with a shortened statutory period of three months for response. Accordingly, this response is timely filed. Reconsideration of the application in view of the following amendments and remarks is respectfully requested.

Amendments to the claims begin on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 6 of this paper.